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TRUE NARRATIVE

OF THE

SUFFERINGS

OF

David Williamson, Mariner.

Left by his SHIP ON FERNANDOPOO; an Island on
the GUINEA COAST; and delivered thence by a
PORTUGUESE Ship, October 1771.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

Wherein is given an ACCOUNT of the ISLAND, its EXTENT,
SOIL and PRODUCE.

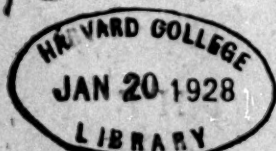
ALSO,

A DESCRIPTION of the Persons and Manners of the
Natives.

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TRANSACTIONS,

March 1, 1771.

I AGREED with Captain M^cNeil of the ship Warwick Castle, lying then at Norfolk-Hope, to go second mate of the said ship, to Bonny, on the coast of Africa, from thence to Jamaica, and back to London: the ship having a tender, being a smack, of which Robert Hamilton was put master, and being deficient in a mate, by Captain M^cNeil's orders I supplied the place.

On the 6th ult. we sailed, and on the 18th the ship hove too for us in the Downs; when we came up with her, Captain M^cNeil ordered us to make all possible haste after the ship to Bonny, as the ship was much the faster sailer, he could not pretend to wait for us, then made sail on board the ship; and we having a fresh of wind took a reef in the mainsail, and made sail after them, but one of our hands fell sick that day, and had raving fits, his wife was also on board, Whom We should certainly have carried on the coast, had not her husband at this time fallen ill.

We found ourselves too weakly manned, and therefore we put into Dover, there discharged the sick man and wife, rigged the squarefail yard, and bent the squarefail. Two boatmen belonging to Dover brought two seamen on board, to be shipped, one named Peter Chancerry, the other John, they both belonging to a brigg; they expressed a difficulty in getting their cloaths before night, however the two boatmen plyed them close, and made them tipsy; the tide serving about 4 p. m. they brought them on board, telling them to assist us into the road, and then they might come ashore with them in their boat, also that they would assist them in getting their chests and bedding out of the brigg, and bring them on board again at
any

any time that night they pleased. When we got into the roads the Captain called them into the cabin, in the meantime the boatmen put off, and our two seamen obliged to remain without their cloaths.

We steered Down Channel, in which we had a strong gale westerly, also some heavy gales betwixt the Lands End and the Madeiras; the sloop, though a dull sailer, behaved admirably well, shipped no water, was very tight, and laid too like a murr.

We made Porto Sancto, passed by Madeira and the Serfers. The day after leaving the latter, we had a heavy gale from N. to N. W. we laid under reef fore-sail two days, the sea run vastly high; the sloop still behaved as well as we could wish, never shipping any water, or requiring the pump to be motioned: when it moderated we made sail, passed the Island Savages, next morning saw Tenerief, and the Grand Canaria, amongst which islands we were beating eight days, having the wind from W. S. W. to W. N. W. which greatly surprized me, having for three years traded from Tenerief to Cadiz, and never found otherwise than a true trade wind. except in squalls or gusts, which never lasts longer than a few hours.

We had pleasant weather from the Canaries to the Cape de Verd Islands; we took our departure from St. Jago, and steered for Cape Formosa. We saw Cape Formosa early one morning, but took it for a sail, as the land hereabouts is low and woody, and makes like the land about Cape Henry First, as a sail then fails; we had light winds all that day; at midnight, I having the watch, I thought I saw the land under our lee, I hove the lead over-board and found but seven fathoms; we tacked, but the wind being light, inclining to calm, and the swell setting in-shore, lagged us in so that we anchored in six fathoms and a half, sandy bottom.

As soon as it was well light on the morning, we saw a canoe paddling off, we got the swivels shipt, got on deck the blunder bushes, muskets and cutlasses. We had not a grain of powder on board, an unpardonable neglect by the master, though he had orders to take a barrel out of the ship when lying at Norfolk-hope.

When the canoe came pretty near, they ceased paddling. We asked, What place that was? One that spoke English answered, Cavalry River, (which is about ten leagues to the southward of Cape Formosa) and why we no come in ship too much live a dare, we told him, We were not coming in, he said, Ye must come, I bring him in; so paddled up to clap alongside; we lifted up the muskets, at which they went a little off; we presented the empty muskets, they immediately tumbled over the sides of the canoe like logs of wood, and remained in the water till we laid the muskets down; they got into their canoe, and paddled for the shore. Just after we saw two more canoes making for us, as soon as they drew nigh, we pointed the swivels at them, as soon as they perceived it they paddled farther off, then lay along side each other, I suppose, consulting what they had best do. But fortunately, it struck up a moderate breeze, we weighed and made sail. I suppose if it had continued calm, we should have had canoes off in abundance, who should have certainly found that we had no ammunition, the consequence of which might have proved fatal.

We directed our course for Cape Palmas, keeping so much offing as not to see the land, when by reckoning we had the Bight or Bay of Benin open, we saw a ship full of slaves, bound of the coast, when about speaking her, we had a heavy trenado, with thunder and lightning. We understood nothing they said, only that Cape Palmas is distant ten leagues.

At midnight we struck soundings in about ten fathoms,

thoms, sandy bottom; we stood off till day-light, then in-shore till 8 A. M. We saw Cape Palmas, we steered along-shore coarse, but took care to keep out of sight thereof. When we judged ourselves near as far to the southward as Bonny-bar, we stood in and made the land, then stood off again, because it was almost night. We always took as much offing that it took us till night to run in again; after this timerous manner we dilly dally'd several days; at length we were drove so far to leeward, that just after meridian we saw the high lands of Cameroons. It fell calm till evening, then came off a heavy trenado, with thunder, lightning, and heavy rain; in about two hours after it fell calm, the freshes of the rivers about Cameroons set out so very strong, raised the sea to a prodigious hight we lay in the trough of it, and had much difficulty to secure the boom. I thought she would rowl'd away her mast; every thing fetched way, and we could scarcely steady ourselves. Soon after sprung up a fine breeze, and we got sail upon her, in the morning we were close in with the east end of Fernandopoo, an island about fifteen leagues from east to west, the east end having a long low point, the middle of the island very high, with a peak on it, not much inferior to that on Tenerief. All the shore is very woody.

We were beating of the north side of this island part of the month of May and all June, excepting once we got four or five leagues to the westward of Fernandopoo, then we tacked, the wind at W. and W. N. W. as it commonly blows there with an intent for Bonny, but after we got over to the main, we acted a few days as afore, till we found ourselves to leeward, then we stood to the S.W. and fetched the east end of Fernandopoo, where we plyed several days, sometimes loosing, and others gaining ground.

Our bottom was very foul, fire-wood expended, and the ship too light for beating. On the first of July we had

Had a heavy trenado, split our jibb, so we put into the north-east bay, there anchor'd in nine fathoms water, sandy ground, and clear of rocks, a bold shore, very good riding, only open from the north east, which winds seldom last long, only coming in tranadoes, so raises no sea. There is good watering, and plenty of fire-wood.

The north-west part of this bay is high land, and parts from the other land by a narrow river; it is very steep, and rocky shore, being very thick with trees to the brink thereof. This we always named, The grove; and when standing in-shore, it was common to say, We'll fetch the east or west end, or middle of the grove. It extends itself about six or seven leagues from east to west, offing about two leagues from the west end of this grove lies some large rocks which may be seen at low water, and when blowing fresh it breaks on and about them

The islands that lie on the north-east of the north-west bay bear from those rocks S. S. W. distance about four leagues. At high water and light winds they are dangerous. Vessels beating or sailing in-shore to keep the land wind, ought to come no higher the land at this place than three or four leagues. This part only for all the rest is a bold shore, and you may sail within a mile or two; the current generally sets to windward as far as these rocks, especially in August, September, October, and November, being the times of heavy rains, and the out-sets of the rivers about the Cameroons, reaches this far; from these rocks to the westward is generally a current from the westward, the land wind does not reach far off, but there is no danger in hugging the shore, except only at the afore mentioned part.

On the 2d July 1771, we went ashore for water, which was very good,. On the 3d and 4th ult. we were

were employed in filling our water, getting fire-wood; and some more ballast. On the 5th we completed Wooding, Watering, and had her in a good set of ballast, and her bottom as clean as we could make it with a hand hog, brushes, scrapers and brooms, mended the gibb, with sundry other needful jobs.

On Saturday the Master sent me with two hands ashore in the boat, to see if there were any inhabitants near the shore, that we might trade for fresh stock. We took the boat about a mile up the river that separates the grove as afore-mentioned.

We left one hand in the boat, whilst I and the other went on shore; it was very Woody, and the trees very large, some much exceeding any I ever saw before. We went pretty far in the Woods, and according to the custom of bush travellers, natched every tree as we went along with our cutlasses, by which marks we came back to the boat.

The trees abounded with large black monkeys, making a great noise, and rattling, running from tree to tree. The foot-marks of deer were plain to be seen, also their dung, which signified their plenty. Hereabouts we saw one when returning to the boat.

There is abundance of Wild-fowl about this river, also some fish, which we could see at the bottom, when rowing down the river. At the mouth of which I went ashore, and walked along the beach, where I saw some cawking nut trees; there we near filled the boat with cawking nuts. They then put off the boat and rowed along shore, whilst I walked the beach, coming near a point of rocks, I thought I saw a young deer, but looking more steadfast I perceived it to be a dog, of which there are not many on this island. They are of one sort or breed, about the size of a Dutch pug, sharp nosed, but of little or no use, don't care to be fondled

fondled with, but continually lies by the fire when at home, very seldom bark, but yells when disturbed.

When I saw it was a dog, I suspected some body to be nigh, presently there appeared to my view eight tall strapping negroes, their faces painted, standing on the rocks staring at me, with every one of them two or three lances, which I took to be bows and arrows; but afterwards found there was no such thing on the island.

The lances are made of a hard wood grows after the form of willows; they cut them when they are about three inches thick at the bottom, they are about six feet long; they harden them over the fire, and at the end which is for execution, they cut it three-square, making beards on the ariges after the form of a ragged bolt with a sharp point. I stood and viewed them a little, then called for the boat, which immediately came, after getting in we rowed a little off, at which they came to the water side, made signs, spreading out their hands, kneeling on one knee, making us understand they would do us no harm; we back'd the boat closer to them, and made signs of our wanting to trade for fowls, &c, showing them the handkerchiefs from about our necks, and that we would fetch some brandy, an article they knew nothing of; they understood us, as we had reason to think afterwards, that we wanted water, pointing to the place where we had watered, then struck into the bush and went off.

We went on board, delivered the cawking nuts, and got our dinners, then taking some rum in the boat, we went ashore, alledging they said they would go for some fowls and bring them to the watering place. We went ashore, but saw no-body; one hand staid by the boat, whilst I and the other set out through the woods, hollowing, Ya hoo! We heard nor saw any
 B thing,

thing, except a young deer, which yielded us some pastime by chasing it. At dusk we returned on board, taking with us some remains of a canoe which lay on the beach. The Wood, as is all the large trees upon this island, is of a red colour, grain'd, and looks much like cedar, only has not the smell.

On Sunday the 7th I went ashore with 3 hands in the boat, We landed on the grove, leaving one in the boat, We Walked through the bush, where We saw a house, to which We Went; it proved to be a new house, there Was no one in it; a fire lately had been therein, there was plac'd flat stones for seats; I suppose it was for the hunters or travellers to rest in, as I saw several afterwards for the like occasion. It was built, as are all their houses, of a tree the very same as our brakins or ferns, though I never saw or heard of any growing to such an extent as on this island, where I have cut and carried many for the use of house-building and fence-making. They grow here to eighteen or twenty feet high, and twelve or thirteen inches thick, very strait, with the fern bush on the top, They are quite light, being hollow all the way up, to build a good house, they cut these trees in about five feet lengths, and the standard in the middle for the roof, about eight feet, makes holes in the ground, sticking these one along side the other, to any form you please, commonly a long square; then for the separation of apartments, they do the same from side to side within, leaving a place for entrance to each apartment. To cover the house, they take the palm leaves being about three feet long, and about four inches broad, they have small flat sticks about three feet long, over these they double the leaves, putting the beight or middle over the stick, the next leaf to cover half the first, and so on to the end. With these they cover the house, beginning below first, partly covering one another to the top, after the form of tiling. They have

have heavy rains from August to the end of November, and yet this thatching is as tight as any tyling in England. We spent all that day searching thro' the Woods, but saw nothing except monkeys, a great plenty of which are all over the island. On the evening we repaired on board, taking with us some mangrove oysters or the oysters growing on trees.

Monday, July 8th, 1771.

ON the morning we washed decks, hoisted in the boat, having no wind, We hauled slack cable round the winlace and went to breakfast. When at breakfast the master asked me What I thought of going round an island about a league to the eastward from us, as there was no likelihood of Wind, to see if I could find any inhabitants that we might purchase some fresh provisions. I made no objections, but readily hoisted out the boat as soon as breakfast was over. We took in the boat four bottles of brandy, all the handkerchiefs we could muster, some bread, beef, and each a cutlass.

With me went Peter Chancery and Andrew Anderson ; We put from along side, rowed round the island, saw nothing there, then we rowed round two or three points, as there are little sandy bays, then points of rocks hiding one bay of beach from the other, We then saw a road, at the bottom of which lay a canoe, here we put ashore, and found the canoe broke. We left Andrew to take care of the boat, Whilst Peter and I Went up the road, taking With us a bottle of brandy, the handkerchiefs, some bread and beef. Soon we met two negroes With each a load of calabashes, going I suppose for palm Wine. At the sight of us they down with their load, and run through the bush like deer.

We still kept Walking on at the same rate, at length We came to a small house, Wherein were some men,
Women,

Women and children. They all set out a running, making a terrible noise, shooting and shrieking.— Here We sat down, I was much afraid they Would send an arrow thro' us, suspecting they had such instruments, seeing in the house the things they have for climbing palm trees, I took them to be bows, and the lances arrows.

The palm trees exceed all other trees in height and straitness, having no boughs or branches, only at the top the branches spread round the cluster of nuts, which cluster contains some hundreds of nuts, and each nut is covered with a red fruit, which when beat, as they do in a trough off the nuts, then boiled makes the palm oil, the nut being dried a while, as they commonly spread them out for that intent, cracks very easy and contains a good kernal.

When the nuts are cut off the tree, then comes on the time for Wine, which is got by cutting a notch or notches in the tree at the soft or cabbagy part on the top of the tree, there they hang calabashes, three or four to a tree. They hang them one day, the next they are full. The tree yields wine till the nuts begin to grow again; they are never without Wine, all the trees not yielding at one time. These things I took for bows are what they climb the trees with, being made of strong withs, with a flat part that goes to their backs to prevent hurting them. These they put round themselves and tree, then knots them, holding each side of the machine with their hands, setting their foot against the tree, then hunching in their back suddenly sliding up the part round the tree, then shifts the feet, and so on to the top, where they rest in this machine till they cut down the nuts with an ax, or fills the calabashes with Wine. Most of the trees have notches in the bark where they place their feet. They'll go up and down as fast as a seaman will go up and down the shrouds of a ship. We

We walked a little farther, where was a plantation. The negroes were gathered here in a numerous body, and still they were afraid to come nigh us, but retreated as we advanced. We soon knew ourselves in their mercy, having them on all sides of us. We made motions or our being come in peace. They at length came to us, but were afraid to touch the brandy or beef, we informed them what we wanted promising them knives and sundry other things. They soon grew less afraid, some looking at the cutlasses, others snatching them and running off. I began to wish myself at the boat, so began to motion to them my intent, promising them knives, by pointing to them they had, which they wear on their left arm, having a string tied round in which the knife is stuck.

Their knives are thin pieces of iron, like a bit of a hoop, the point is sharpened on a stone, and fastened in a wood helve. They began to use us something rough. Two of them being more generous than the rest, undertook to conduct me to the boat, whilst the others gathered round Peter and cut him in the head with a stone. It rained most of the afternoon. The road they led me was very dirty, in which I lost my slippers, then obliged to walk barefoot. They took me to a house and offered me some yam to eat, but I could not touch it. They gave me some palm wine which I drank.

When it was dark they took me to a bay near where we came ashore in the boat, I not knowing whether it was to the eastward or westward, called, Andrew! at which they both set out and left me. I called Andrew, several times, but having no answer, I went round a point to the eastward, which proved the wrong way. I being fatigued lay myself down in a canoe that was hauled up there. I often wished for Peter that we might launch the canoe and go off.

-I rose at day break, went to the place we landed at with the boat, but finding her not, I imagined Andrew was gone on board, fearing our ill success by so long staying. However I comforted myself by hoping she would soon be sent back. I washed my face and hands, resolving to go to the house where my conductors entertained me before. On my road I met Peter with ten negroes, each having three or four lances, painted very frightful, bringing him down. He had nothing on but a frock, which was all blood that run from his head, which was much cut. I told him Andrew was gone off with the boat, and we had better go to a house I was at last evening, and there wait till Andrew came back. He readily turned about to go, but the savages would not suffer it, but made us march before them to the water side.

Peter told me they took him to a house where they stript him. He promised them knives, axes, &c. they gave him something to eat for his promises and were come to receive the present. When we came to the part or bay I a little before had left, they took me as prisoner, and sent Peter to the sloop, shewing him the nearest road, to bring a ransom for me. In the mean time they played a great many tricks with me, and thinking Peter stayed too long, they stript me naked there, made signs of cutting my arms and legs off by the joints. Then some would hold up their lances to run me through, whilst others stayed their hands.

I was in great fear, and perhaps in as great danger. The two that conducted me the day before were there, and always interceded in my behalf. The sun shined very bright, and several times I went on my knees, with my face to the sun and my hands pointed there-to and prayed fervently, not to the sun but the maker thereof, at which time they would stand and gaze, though they have no kind of worship among them.

They

They then agreed to go with me to the bay where the sloop was, making me to put on my cloaths, and we went on till we came to the bay, where to my sorrow and amaze, I saw the sloop stretching off.

Now they certainly would have killed me, had it not been for my conductors. I begged of them to let me go to the grove, shewing them that I would spread my handkerchief on a stick and wave it, when the sloop stood in, at which they would come and take me on board. My conductors persuaded the rest to let me go, at which one took a knife and cut off my hair behind, close by my head, which he tied to his arm, and to the other arm he tied a crooked comb I had to keep my hair back, he also took the handkerchief, then let me go.

I run along the beach directing my way to the grove, there intending to hoist my jacket when the sloop stood in again, which she never did. I expected to see Peter about the watering place, but did not, I supposed he missed his road, and the savages would find him going back, so kill him. It was high water, which obliged me to swim across two rivers. I went to that part of the grove facing the sea, where I had a full view of the sloop, she was still stretching off, and she never stretched nigher the shore than four or five leagues.

I looked down to the rocks, there saw Andrew, I thought he was dead; he had been striving to get on board, but the wind and sea had driven him on the rocks. I called, Andrew! Andrew! but received no answer, I then went down, and found he only slept, so waked him, as soon as he saw me he clung round my legs and cried, O dear Mr. Williams! Mr. Williams! I asked where the boat was? he said soon after we went away a great number of savages came, he put off the boat, but they followed in the water, brought

brought her ashore, and broke her to pieces, in which time he run off, some youngsters followed a while, heaving stones, he came all along the water side, this morning they were heaving up the anchor on board the sloop, when the anchor was up they stood close in, he called to them that Peter and I were murdered, telling them he could not swim, but begged they would veer a buoy which he would endeavour to get hold of and they might hawl him on board, but they put about, hoisted the squaresail and went away, then he came to the place where I found him, where, crying, looked at them, till overcome with grief, he dropt in that sound sleep I found him in.

We had much reason to rail against Hamilton, for had he stretched in again, we might have both got on board. We then agreed to travel to the northwest bay, alledging that we should there find canoes, which we would launch and go off. We resolved to walk along shore which could only be done when the tide was low: We were afraid to return to those that took us, also to see any others. As soon as the water was low enough we set out on our journey, going along a beach, as there are here and there a sandy spot, we found some kind of fruit which we eat. When night came we lay down under a tree.

Wednesday the 10th. On the morning we went on, having no shoes or stockings, the rocks cut our feet, We could scarcely set them down, and indeed We made but short days journeys. Wherever we found any fruit we eagerly eat whatever seemed palatable, never thinking on the danger we might receive by eating unknown fruit.

Thursday the 11th. This morning it came to rain very heavy, We got into a thicket which screened us a while, but as soon as the leaves got wet, the rain poured faster and heavier than if We had been open.
On

On the afternoon it left of raining, We Walked till we came to a river side, where we wrung our shirts, and hung them out to dry when night came, as there were a great many fallen leaves, we thussed off the top and wet leaves and laid ourselves down. We saw the sloop to the offing.

Friday the 12th, We set out again, Andrew was very faint, his spirits drooped, and I had great difficulty to get him along. I got some large leaves and ty'd them round his feet with whiths. Our food was the same as before. We attempted to eat the leaves, some tasted middling well, others were very bitter.— We walked as far as we could, then lay down. In the night we had heavy rains, which obliged us to rise and stand till day light under a large tree. This day we could also see the sloop plying to windward.

Saturday the 13th, Andrew's feet were so bad he could not walk, he cried bitterly, I tore the laps of his jacket and ty'd them round his feet, then we walked till coming to a river, over which we could not pass, it being high water : We sat down till the water fell, then went over, and walking along a sandy bay, we saw the foot-marks of negroes, We gave thanks that the water detained us, and hindered our meeting them, We took care to sleep in the thicket where no one could pass. This day we also saw the sloop as before, but thought she made no great hand of turning.

Sunday the 14th, The rain begun this morning and held till night, nevertheless we set out as soon as day, and about noon we came to two cawking nut trees, one of which I climbed and hove down about a dozen, we broke them and eat heartily of the meat and drank the milk, which cheered us rarely. At night we lay

C

down

down all dung wet, our sleep was very little. We saw not the sloop to day, it being thick weather.

Monday the 15th, We set out and walked till we came to a river, as this island abounds with fine fresh water rivers coming from the mountains and emptying themselves in the sea. By the river side was a cawking nut tree, which I climbed and hove some down, we sat down to eat, but I turned so sick and faint I thought I should then have expired, but not willing to indulge faint hopes, I got up and walked about, and, thank God, in half an hour it went quite away. As soon as the water fell we advanced on till night. Wherever we came to a plat of sand we saw foot-marks, which put us in dread, still acknowledging our luck in missing those who made them.

Tuesday the 16th, As we were walking along the rocks, Andrew lay down, being quite faint, resolving to go no farther, but there to die, I endeavoured to comfort him, but to no purpose, then threatened him, telling him I would leave him, he said, there he would lie and die, I went away but he never seemed to look after me, then I came back, told him he was guilty of self-murder if he did not strive for life with all the power given him, he then got up, and I ty'd up his feet, and we marched on. We had not gone far before we saw a negro woman and four or five children, I suppose they had been washing themselves, We thought to hide from them, but they presently saw us and set into the bush as fast as they could run. We immediately struck into the bush for fear there should be more at the water side. We walked through the bush till night, then lay down to rest.

Wednesday the 17th, We had much rain last night, but to-day fine pleasant weather. We walked with our jackets in our hands that our shirts might dry.—
My

My feet being very sore and cut in several places with the sharp rocks, I resolved to walk on the path, let the consequence be what it would. Just as we struck into the road we saw a little hut, built for hunters or fishermen to reside in on such occasions; going along the path we met six negroes with two hand nets, going a fishing, they came to us, though seemingly afraid, we told them that we came in a boat for water, that the sea knocked the boat to pieces against a rock, one man was drowned, and we had been nine days without victuals, this we made them understand by motions. They went and got palm nuts, cracked them, and gave us the kernals to eat, then took us back again to the rocks, intending we should show them where the boat was broke, expecting to get something, being very fond of iron. When we found what they intended we would go no farther back, informing them by signs that it was a long distance to the place, for we had been nine days travelling, they then went about their business and we returned to the little hut we saw before; there slept till day.

Thursday the 18th, This morning we set out, not being so much afraid as before, near about the same place we met the six negroes going as before, they had a fire stick with them, they made us on a fire, and brought us some nuts. One of them was a fukey or a teller of fortunes, he begun to call out making a great many motions, blowing and spitting. I guessed he was to tell if we were hurtful, or if what we said was truth, I suppose he spoke in our favours. I knew what he was doing, for the Musqueto Indians have the same anticks, and they both use this method to perform cures of all kinds.

We sat by the fire till afternoon when the savages came from fishing, they told us to go to the hut, and Cockera crow soley mucko, which is yams plenty in
the

the morning, I thought by soley they meant solus, or quiet. When they were gone we pursued our journey, taking each a stick of fire. When night came we gathered a heap of Wood, and made on a fire, by which we lay all night.

Friday the 19th, We set out this morning and walked till noon, and being much fatigued, we made on a fire and sat down. There were several boys at the sea side, but they feared to come nigh us. Two hunters came past, but said nothing, soon after they came again and brought a cap full of fine nuts. They asked many questions, I made signs for yams, they promised to bring us some on the morning. I wanted to go to their house, but they refused. Here we staid all night, and lay by the fire.

Saturday the 20th, We set out this morning, not waiting for the yams, with us We took a stick of fire, we lost the path and got into the thicket, having much difficulty in getting out, We lost our fire, We came to a river where were three hunters, they asked us some questions, but were afraid to stay, fearing that there were more of us, We marched on till night, then sat down under a tree. We felt a great missing of the fire.

Sunday the 21st, This day we could find no nuts or fruit. When it was low Water We went on the rocks, and broke the small oysters growing thereon with a stone and eat them, also We got soldiers, a red thing that runs along the rocks and sands, With a shell like a perriwinkle shell. We met no body this day. At night We lay down sorrowful and weary.

Monday the 22d, This morning when We set out We resolved the first road We came to leading to a plantation We would go up it, happen what would,
for

for We saw no likelihood of finding a canoe; not long after We came to a road, and according to promise We entered it, and walked three or four miles not seeing any body. There were several small roads, We supposed led to houses, We kept on the broad road, We were very weary, and sat down sometimes, then walked again, at length We saw a boy come along one of the cross roads with a heap of calabashes on his shoulders, We drew a little back then sat down, that the boy might go safely past, he said something, standing about a stones throw off us, then called out lustily, presently there came five or six strapping negroes, each of them having two or three lances, We told them what befel us, as we had told the others we met, and that We were thirteen days without victuals.

They asked many questions, then one of them brought us some palm Wine and nuts, another brought a fine yam and a fire stick. They took us about half a mile back the same Way, then made on a fire and roasted the yam, which We eat. It was now evening, and the hunters were returning home; We soon had a number of frightful figures about us, they were all painted, their Woolly hair clagged with paint and oil.

They make paint with leaves, rubbing them between two smooth stones, dipping the stone they have to rub with in Water, and then amongst ashes, so rubs and grinds the leaf which makes a paint of a brown colour, they use great quantities, mixing it with palm oil, and rubbing themselves all over. They have a fine red, grows in a swad, like a bean, they use clay for yellow. These hunters that came were thus painted, With monkey and squirrel skins cut in strops and hung over their shoulders. On there arms were ty'd shells, monkeys skulls, several small bones, and each had the top of a calabash slung round his arm, in Which he blowed, having a sound like a post boy's horn,

horn, With Which they find each other in the Woods, their knife was also stuck on the arm. They had a cap made like a basket, being wide enough to hold two heads, when they put on the cap, they keep it close to the back part of the head by running a Woodon skewer through the cap and hair, which makes it hang from the face or fore part of the head five or six inches, some have goats horns placed on the fore-part of the cap; their privates are hid by a thing like a swabb, it is made of the inside bark, they beat it till it strings like unchecked hemp, they, double it over a string ty'd round their waist, where it dangles before them. Just below the knee they wear a Wooden bell, which tingles as they go.

Some were for taking us one Way, some another, at length there came a stout lusty fellow, well made, he asked if we would go with him, We should have soley, muka mucka. His outside appearance shewed good nature within, We readily consented to go with him, he took us through his plantation, gave me a couple of yams to carry, and took some himself, then we went on towards his house, which was two miles from the plantation. A great number of women and boys accompanied us along the road, which was very bad, and our feet being exceeding sore we could not walk but with great pain. One of the boys took the yams from me to carry, I thought they carried us so far in land, we should never have the opportunity of going to the shore side again.

Some of the women and boys were carrying yams, others fire Wood, all coming from their labour at the plantations. I sometimes thought they were going to lead us up to the mountains, that the Wood was to erect our funeral pile to send our spirits to the other world in a smoke, whilst our ashes remained mingled with that of the Wood.

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Andrew could scarcely walk, and was behind all the Way, and often cried Mr. Williams, Mr Williams, that our master, as we always termed him had my name as pat as Andrew, and told it as soon as we came to the house.

Andrew often said, I might take more time, not knowing what they were going to do with us, I replied, that made my hurry the greater, being eager to know my fate. We at length came to the house, in which were some Women, besides his Wife, or as we called her, our mistress, but they run out as soon as we came. Our master put the yams on the fire to roast, and in the time cracked some nuts for us. We eat heartily of the yams when roasted, then we went to sleep on the same things whereon we sat. Andrew and I lay on one side of the fire, our master and mistress on the other.

The beds are boards, or a tree split with Wedges, making one side as flat as they can with their axes, which are made of bar iron, about ten inches long, made sharp at the end on a stone, the helve is a piece of Wood or stick natched at one end, or split, in this split or natch they put the iron, lashing it with a with, or what strips off the inside palm branches when twisted makes good tie ties. This is the manner of laying, some raise their heads with a piece of wood; I always made a pillow of my jacket and hat.

Numbers of men and Women came to look at us the next morning. The Women wear nothing on their heads, they rub themselves with the palm oil and paint. Some of them have beads round their necks and arms, how they came by them I believe they cannot tell. Others for want of beads have small shells to supply their place; they have a string ty'd round their waist, and when they rise on a morning they pluck a broad leaf,

leaf, so doubles it over the string, and it hangs before them, but if they are not going out they seldom mind it in the house.

They are very dexterous at making baskets and caps for their husbands, both of which are made of the strippings of the inside palm branches. They bring home all the fire Wood, and do most of the Work about the plantation, Whilst the men go a hunting or gathering palm Wine and nuts.

They have pots made of clay they boil the yams in and greens, which are tops or leaves of the young yams, they boil the yams in the steam, covering one pot with another. It is the only method to boil them, making them dry and meally. To boil yams with the stem is customary on board the Guinea ships.

When victuals are cooked, the Wife, or Warrea, as they call them, puts it into a basket, gives it to the man of the house, he takes it on his knees, gives every one round him a piece, then if they have greens, which she gives him in one of these earthen pots, every one holds out their hand, and he puts a little on each, or sometimes she gives him his greens to himself in one of these clay pots, and for all the rest in another, if they are done before the master, he gives every one a bit more; they reckon this a good omen, they being very fancical in actions and appearances denoting good or ill fortune. When I have been sitting with my head on my hand, perhaps condoling my misfortunes, as soon as they noticed me in that posture, they would whip away my hand, making me understand it was ill luck. They would suffer you to spit no where but in the fire.

The Women I believe are constant to their husbands. Their marriage is solemnized with a feast, having no notion

notion of function, know nothing of a deity, but are all equal in dignity, taking no thought for to-morrow, never minding futurity, having neither laws, rites, nor ceremonies, each spending the day according to their own fancy.

They have no manner of covering in child-bearing, either infant or mother; they have a female neighbour to attend them. When any one dies, the women nearest related bring out a board, or part of the bed, which at night they sit upon, covering the face of the corpse with her hands, then howl and cry till morning, and so loud that you'll hear them at a great distance. The same customs prevail amongst the Indians on the Musqueto shore. I have been amongst them on such an occasion, when they howled after the same manner, only they staid in the house, and were covered all over with a cloth, this they do for three nights running.

All that came to see us made us strip our arms and legs bare, and some were curious to see our bodies naked; they were greatly surpris'd to see my hair so long, though they would have been more so had they seen me before the other savages cut it off, my beard being long, most of the men coveted it, they would rub their chin round mine, stroke my beard with their hand, then rub their chin, supposing that would make them have a large beard also; and I often wish'd they had had it, and my face had been as smooth as some of theirs, for it grew to a great length, was painful, and would harbour vermin, to prevent which I often sing'd it with a fire-stick.—Presently there came a message to my master from a lame man to bring me to his house, that I might cure him, we both went, when we came there one of their own doctors was performing, he spitted and
spatter

spattered on the leg and foot, blowing and saying a long preamble, when he was done I was to begin, I resolved to do something like him lest they should doubt my sufficiency ; they first gave me a yam, according to their custom, I made them warm some water, in which I put some palm oil, rubbing the leg therewith, then made some signs with my hands, and said a long preamble, from thence we went to the plantation ; at evening I returned again, my feet were very sore, and it was with great pain I got back. Andrew was rejoiced to see me return, for he thought they had separated us. When I came home the women gathered about us, and told us we must take a wara, throw away our cloaths, and go as they did. We told them we would in a few days when our feet were well, and we could talk their lingo ; the next day my master excused my going to the plantation or levam, however several sick and sore sent for us, to whom we were obliged to go. They lie so nigh the fire, and sleep so sound that they throw their legs and arms into the fire, and never awake until they are much burnt. We performed many cures by making them keep the sore clean, and tying them up in a large leaf. When any had the head-ach we were sent for, which cure we performed by squeezing their heads hard with our hand, never neglecting to say some preamble ; the natives thought us very useful, and by these means we got our bellies filled with yams. My mistress, poor woman, often had the belly-ach, I alway told her she was breeding, she often got up in the dead of the night and came to me to cure her, which I did by rubbing her belly.— She would then go to bed, sleep soundly, and rise well on the morning. A woman big with child sent for me, it was her first, and all her desire was that it might be a boy, to shew my skill. I felt her pulse and viewed her eyes, then assured her that it was a boy.

boy, she was delivered about a month after of a brave boy, this gained me great applause : whenever I went to her house, she took care to have laid up for me a drink of wine, or a yam. My feet were so sore I could not walk for several days, then had I time to reflect on my unhappy situation, sorrow often overpowered me, and when I wanted to conceal my grief tears would overflow, and the bitterness of my soul might be easily discerned. I never neglected addressing myself to God in prayer, acknowledging that if he was strict in marking iniquity, if he laid righteousness to the line, and judgment to the summit, my misconduct deserved to meet with greater punishment. I owned that though I could form no idea or possible means of my ever being released out of the deplorable situation I then was in, yet noting was impossible to God, and that if he determined I should there end my days, I hoped he would make them few, cut them short in righteousness, and bring me to his kingdom, where all sorrows shall pass away, and the weary are at rest. But if it pleased his wisdom to lay a way for my escape, to give me fortitude to wait with patience for the happy time, which when accomplished to give me grace that I may persevere in good works and never forget what God had done for me. After this manner was my addresses to God, not the service of the lips but the very desire of my soul. At this time I lost the day of the week and month, and when my feet grew well the master and botuck wanted me to go to the water side, alledging when we lost the boat we had hid some things in the sand, such as knives, axes, beads, &c. When I assured him there was no such thing, and how many days it would take to go to the place, their expectations being lost, they made us go to the Lavam every day to weed, carry flakes, clear more ground, and at night bring home fire-wood, we still visited the af-

dicted not from any regard for their welfare, but for the filling our bellies.

Their houses are built like villages, six or eight together, the oldest man, or he that first built on that place or spot, is called the Botuck, and is something revered when he gathers much wine or kills a monkey, squirrel, or some rats he sends for them all to partake, and is like a father and head of that village.

Our master had a new house built, with three apartments, this we built one morning, and pulled the other down, we had the first room at night to ourselves, the second he cooked in, and they lay in the third, this was more trouble to us, there being more fires, we had the more wood to bring, only at night we could roast a piece of yam when they were asleep, for when we got a yam from our patients we hid it in a tree near the house, at night we would fetch it in, roast and eat it.

They sometimes have great feasts with merriment, this they call Walla, they have a large spot of clear level ground for this occasion, with flat stones set all round it for seats, they deck the trees about it some with a bunch of nuts, others with a calabash, some horns and large bones, the men paint themselves at this time, they gather together at this place with their lances, one carries a buffalo's hide, as there are some buffaloes on this island, though they seldom catch them. They run the length of this ground with pointed lances, then turn back as if they were pursued, then about again in a great hurry, and so on, after this they gather in a round ring, the master of the feast in the middle, they dance and sing.— Their wives come each with a basket containing yams
and

and greens. The masters of the feast kills a goat or sheep, both which they call Maa, I suppose from its bleating, the skin is cut in straps, and every one gets a bit, as far as it goes, the flesh is boiled to mummy, and mixed with palm oil, they have also a fruit they put into this mixture. I never saw any of the sort in England, but they are very plenty. In Spain, where they use them in soups, and names them Tomatoes. They sometimes on this island boil or roast them, then mash them in palm oil, which they call Tweta; at the feast every one gets a piece of yam, then each a handful of greens, and this mixture, when the men are satisfied, the women carry home the remains, and there feast themselves, the men spend the day in dancing, at evening they part in companies to drink wine, always preserving a stock for this occasion, every one has slung round his arm a small callibath or cawking nut shell to drink out of, for two never drink out of one cup. They have some cocks and hens, and though they seldom eat any, yet they increase but little, the hens lay their eggs promiscuously in bushes, which are destroyed by the rats, they name both cock and hen cockera, when they want to distinguish by discourse they say Cockera Warrea, that's the cock's wife. We seldom got any other flesh meat from them than a bit of a monkey or a rat, and never above a mouthful of that. They catch the monkies with nets, which are made out of the inside bark of a tree which they dry, beat, and rub, till it is like hemp, only a brown colour, then plats it into cord or string of which they make nets, they spread the nets from tree to tree, then chase the monkies who run down one tree in order to climb another, but are entangled with the nets. They catch fish with nets, on some parts of the island where they have a good bay and canoes, but here they seldom catch any. They often teased me to have a Warea, but I at length told them

them I had one a Bota, that was my country, Andrew confirmed the same by saying I had two children also.

The people round about were well acquainted with my name, and the very children would cry Mr. Williams, and our master when we were out after dark would cry out yaho, Mr. Williams. They thought us indued with extraordinary gifts, for when it rained hard, and they wanted to go to the Lavam they came to us, making signs to blow up the rain, a method they used themselves but I suppose to no purpose.

We had rain at a time for three or four days successfully, I was sent for to a house when the man gave me a yam first and then said Cockera Crow, Mohe-lia ache, no rain to-morrow, also threatened to kill me if there was, I took the yam and carried it home it rained the chief part of the night very fast, but on the morning it cleared up, and we had a fine day. The hunters often came and made us rub their arms that they might strike or throw freight.

Being at home one day with my mistress, I was solitary, a matter I could no ways help, for every idle and lonesome minute my unhappy fate with no likely means of ever amending or altering it, raised such an overplus of sorrow and grief in me that I could in no wise smother or conceal it, my mistress grew angry with me, told me I would never see my wife and children, to pull off my cloaths, throw them away, take a Warrea, and go as they did. I understood the chief of all they said to me, though I could not speak much of their lingo myself. I told her in a passion no, for there would soon come a ship for me ; this was soon

soon spread about, they were all in a consternation; some beliving, others doubting, though they all seemed to be something afraid. My master told me no, for he had never seen but one vessel here since he was the bigness of his little boy, this was bad news for me, it stifling my hopes, alledging what I said would never come to pass, yet I still vindicated that there would a ship come.

From our house we had a prospect of the sea, I often stood at the door and gaze on the water, not expecting to see a sail, but wishing I was on the water in a boat or canoe. They soon took notice of me, and all that passed that way used to say Bota, ache, I answered always Bota Scou. In a few days after, my master was attending his palm trees, where he had a small hut to sleep in at night, it was about four miles from the house; our mistress and we went in the morning to carry empty callabashes, and bring back what was filled, as we were going we saw a brig close in shore, sailing with the land wind, our mistress pointing at the brig, bid us go, at the same time laughing at our longing looks. We thought the brig was only hugging the shore for the land wind. We all came home together that night, and on the morning there was a great noise that she was anchored in the N. W. bay. We had about seven miles to go to the water side, and from thence to the bay about three leagues, I was eager to be going, so promised my master that I would bring him napos, healyas, &c. mucko, mucko, they being very desirous of such things, our master went with us to shew us the way to the water side, on our road we went through the Lavam, where he gave us three yams and a stick of fire, when we came to the water side he left us, putting us in mind of our promise.

About two miles from that there were negroes making two canoes, and there was two old ones close
by

by them, this gave new addition to my grief, reflecting had we travelled on instead of going up the road at first, we should have been that day at the canoes, and at night if able launched one, and gone off, the negroes had heard of us, and some had seen us, they wanted us to assist in making the canoe, alledging that we were dextrous at it. We told them where we were a going, promising to bring them utensils for that purpose, they in return promised to give Maos, Cockeras, Tewia, Yaccoas, and Soley, we parted with them, it being high water we could not go round the rocky points, we therefore struck into the bush, we lost the path and got into the thicket, where we staid all night made on a fire, and roasted our yams, in the morning we set out and came to the N. W. bay, which is very large, with a fine sandy beach, and very steep, with a great many fine fresh water rivers, one especially that lies to the east part of the bay. where a boat may go in at any time of the tide, and about two miles or three to the east of the bay is a river with five or six foot water on the bar at low water. At the river on the east side of the bay being the most convenient for watering we suspected the brig had watered there, for close by the river was a large fallen tree on which stood two bottles, one having had beer or ale in it, the other brandy. Andrew picked up a stript jacket had been thrown out of the brig, which was gone to our great grief and sorrow, missing this opportunity, and perhaps we might never have another, we cross the river, raking with us the two bottles, when we came to a large road at the foot of which lay two canoes.

We resolved to go up this road, thinking if we got liberty to stay there, in seeing a sail we might come in the night, and launch a canoe, and go off. The first we met on the road was a man going to gather palm wine, at the sight of us he set out, running and shouting,

shouting, they soon alarmed one another, and we were in the midst of a hundred or more, they were afraid to come nigh us for some time, till we laid down the bottles, We told them the same story that we told the rest, that we were hungry and wanted to go to their houses, they would not suffer us, but hurried us again to the shore side.

When going back some of them began to talk to me I know not what, from the grief I was in, and they differed something in their account from the others, I understood nothing but that we should go to their house and have Solcy Mucko. I kept answering Seou to all they said. When we came to the Water side, there were a number of Women with baskets containig yams, Wine and nuts, they gave us some Wine to drink and nuts to eat, then two of them took me to one side, I soon understood what they meant, they thought we had knives, axes, &c. hid in the sand, and these yams and Wine was to trade with us, I soon turned my tale to Atche. They thought we feared to see so many, they therefore sent them all away, only four staying, but I assured them we had no such thing

They had no lances with them as good fortune ordered it, or they would certainly have run us thro', they took up stone, and hove at us, some of which hit us on the back. We run, and they followed, till we came to the river, through which we went shouting, they then turned back, fearing there were more of us I suppose

We kept on for the old place, finding there the best shelter. We walked till night, then lay down under a tree, and on the morning pursued our journey. We

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came

came to a hut built for hunters or travellers to reside in, there were in it a man and his son, they had on a good fire, but no victuals. The boy had a fore leg, over which Andrew said a preamble. We left them and came to the canoe makers, we told them what befel us, gave them the bottles and jacket, told them in a few days another ship would come, making them fresh promises. They roasted some yams and gave us to eat. The island is very full of Wood, and all of the sort aforementioned, especially near the shore side, there plantations are all far back, and they only clear as much ground as barely serves themselves. The ground is mostly of a black mould, and though they grow nothing but yams, it would produce any thing. Their yams are much superior to those on Princes, or St. Thomas, which is allowed by the inhabitants of the aforesaid islands; and there might be as good corn, plantons, bannaes, and cascado, if sowed and planted, there is some wild cane growing, though it comes to no perfection. After we had regaled ourselves and eat what they gave us, we marched home, we were as wet as might be by the time we got there, for it rained all the way. We told them how the ship was gone, and how we were stoned. We soon found our error when we went out a visiting, the boys would stone us, and the old savages laugh at them, and when we displeased them in any ways, they threatened to send us the same way, I finding they made a rule of imitating each others actions, I then told them how kind those were that were making the canoes, how they gave us yams and Wine, and wanted us to stay with them, this had the intended effect, for they left off stoning, and were as usual kind.

There are two sorts of people on this island, a real black and a tawny colour. The black are much the better sort, most generous and affectionate, whilst the tawny are real savage in their disposition, having no fellow

fellow feeling or compassion. It happened well for us, the black were here most numerous: it was the tawny cut off my hair, the two conductors were black, and those that stoned us were of this tawny colour.

They stript Andrew of his cloaths, rubbed him all over with their paint and oil, ty'd bones round his arms, and shells with a belt to his leg, a swab to cover or hang before his privates, and, in short, every thing according to their form or fashion. Andrew had informed them I was a botuck, mentioning that a bota I had many maa's, cockeras, &c. so they would not force me to strip, but were always teasing me to do it, Voluntary telling me how well Andrew looked and expressing their aversion to my wearing cloaths, I still refused, affirming that soon a vessel would come, tho' God knows I doubted whether ever. My cloaths were very troublesome, having no shift, and always lying in them, that I almost swarmed with vermin, though I often went to a place in the river where I thought no one would pass, I being afraid to appear naked, fearing they would take away my cloaths. When they found them off me, there I washed my shirt, jacket, and trousers, spread them on a bush, so set myself down naked till they were dry.

I often strove to persuade Andrew to go to the place where they were making the canoes, there to lie in bush till night, then strive to launch the canoe, and go to the Cameroons, Which is only about twelve leagues from the east end, and with the sea breeze, sticking a bush in the middle or end of the canoe might sail with ease to the cameroons, I never could prevail with him, he expressed his fears, Which often aggravated me to give him a blow, saying if Peter had been with me, I should not have been on that place at that time. Andrew Was born in Norway, Was the son of a soldier, he seemed to be very content as he was, Which made me suspect he knew nothing of
life,

life, being spiritless, and perhaps never been used to better fare; only the small time he had been at sea, but Was more fit for a soldier than a sailor. We Were kept every day at Work at the lavam, and bringing home every night a load of fire Wood a mile or two, then had it to cut fit for the fire, took our rounds night and morning to visit the sick, Which We readily did, not for the supposed benefit We Were to them, but for the filling or satisfying of our appetites.

I always spoke of a vessel coming, and often renewed my promises to master and mistress, though I was not so much beloved as Andrew by none of the natives, my not complying to go naked, my seeming discontent turned me out of favour, for When I staid too long on a morning, not coming in time to go With them to the lavam, they threatened to send me away alone, and though Andrew often transgressed, they never found fault, my telling of a vessel before Which came, made them I believe afraid to do me any hurt, believing What I said of another vessel's coming, also assuring themselves of the promises I had made.

The happy day came at last, being early out, every one I met told me, a bota, a bota, I Went directly Where I had a good prospect, I saw a sloop coming along shore from the eastward, With a light land Wind, squarefail, and square-top-sail set, I run to look for Andrew, In my Way I met my master, I told him a bota, he bid me tell no one but look for Andrew, and he Would go With us. My searching for Andrew made it known to many, they all bespoke napoes, healoes, &c. When I found Andrew, We With my master botuck and another set out, We Went thro' the lavam and took some soley With us, We came to the shore side, Where We saw the sloop sailing to the Westward With a light Wind inclining to calm, We made on a great fire and large smoke that We might be

be noticed by the sloop, she sailed past us, and night drawing on, they asked my opinion, I told them she could not come there for the heates (a name for rocks or stones) but she would anchor in the N. W. bay, that the negroes might go home, and when we got on board we would fire three guns, which when they heard in the morning to come down and they should have plenty of every thing. I told Andrew if we could persuade them to go home, as it seemed to be calm, and the sloop made but little way we might launch one of the canoes and go off. They asked Andrews opinion, he said the sloop was gone, and would not stop, and that we might all go home again.

They seemed to credit what Andrew said, and the botuck set off for home, Andrew was for going with him, which greatly enraged me, I protested she would anchor, though God knows I had no hopes of it, all my hopes centered in its being calm, and our launching a canoe, I told them they might all go, for I would stay, and that she would anchor in the N. W. bay. My master and the other seeing my resolution would stay also, and would not let Andrew go with the botuck, for which he cried like a whipt child. I feared their staying would hinder the design of launching the canoe. They took us a little farther amongst the trees, there made on a fire, and gathered wood to serve all night, I could not be at rest, but went on the beach, where to my great joy I saw the sloop with all her sails down, the boat towing her betwixt the two island, on the N. E. side of the bay, I waited till I saw her anchor, then called them to me, shewed them the sloop, Andrew seemed well-pleased, and said he was glad I did not consent to go back. We roasted the yams and eat thereof, so lay down by the fire till morning, early we set out for the sloop, and we had much to do to persuade the negroes to go opposite the sloop, When we came there we saw the boat going on board from the

the island, where they had been leaving a goat and sheep to feed. I tied my jacket to a stick, got on the rocks, waved the jacket and hail'd the sloop, they heard but could not see us, the land hid us. I thought to have swimed off, but the fear of the thirks hindered me. They hoisted a Portuguese ensign, and soon after came with the boat, our two attendants kept out of sight till we got into the boat and pushed off, then they appeared and called, Mr. Williams, putting me in mind of my promise, I asked them to come on board, but they refused, then I told them to wait and I would perform my promise, though I had no thought of having it in my power to give them any thing. When we got on board the sloop I told the captain what had befallen us, and how I had promised them several things to gain my liberty, he told me I should have what I pleased to give them, that the sloop belonged to the king of Portugal, on board of which was the governor of Princes son, and a captain in the army, to take a plan of the island, that they intended to settle the island, on which account they had brought a vast quantity of goods to make presents to all the natives they saw, he had already been round the island, that he was now bound for princes, and had it not fallen calm he had not stopt there. I asked if he had been in the N. E. bay or had heard any thing of Peter, he said he was in the N. E. bay, but he heard nothing of any white man. The captain ordered the cook to shave our heads and faces, and warm a kettle of water to wash us, I hove away all my cloaths, Andrew threw away all his fetiches, the captain gave us each a shirt and pair of trowsers, we got a couple glasses brandy each, and some pork but fearing to eat. This was like a new birth to us, our joy was inexpressible.

I went in the boat with the mate and four hands on purpose to make my promise good to my master, but he was gone, thinging we staid too long, and that we had

had given him the fling. When we were ashore we saw several of the negroes belonging to the place, they were making canoes, most of them knowing my name, we gave presents to them all, and next day they came along side in their canoes, and brought us some fine fish. I asked when we went on board what month it was? they said the twenty-fourth of October, which greatly surprised me, for by my reckoning it was March or April, for I thought it a long time since I told Andrew I thought it was Christmas. The day after I went in the boat with the same crew, and landed at the road that led to my old habitation, I took a large copper dish, 2 copper rods, 2 looking glasses, 6 knives, and one large knife, 4 pieces of bar iron for axes 2 hoes, a dozen brass bells, and a large heap of beads of different colours, the mate and one of the crew that spoke good English and I went up to my masters, I gave the bells to his son, the beads to his wife and the rest to him, but they hove the looking glasses from them when they saw themselves therein. Our master, the botuck, and another accompanied us to the boat, and brought down some yams and four fowls, the mate gave each of them a piece of bar iron, we then went on board.

We lay in this bay ten days, the current running strong from the westward, and waited for a change or abatement, we went ashore every day either for water or trading for yams. I always went in the boat as singester, understanding most of what they said, and knew the names of every thing. The N. W. bay is good riding and a bold shore, very easy watering, you have sixteen or eighteen fathom water a musket shot off the shore, the lands on the hills above the bay look very pleasant. there are five or six fathom water betwixt the two small islands on the N. E. side of the bay, and very good riding within the largest island in twenty and twenty two fathoms

We

We arrived at the island Princes the 17th November 1771. where lay the Tartar snow of London, capt. S***h, bound to Dominica. He came along side the same evening we arrived, asked me the ship's name and captain's name I belonged to, but my memory failed me, and I could tell neither till I asked Andrew, I asked for a passage, he said he did not know whether I had told the master of the sloop, he informed the governor's son, who acted in his father's stead, his father being sick. His excellency sent for capt. S***h, endeavoured to persuade him to take me, but he positively answer'd no, for I had run away with some boat or vessel, and through ignorance had gone to Fernandopoo, for he said I could neither tell ship nor master's name, till I asked the boy, meaning Andrew, I said it would be no wonder if my senses failed me as well as my memory. He then asked the owners name, and fundry other questions, but went away saying he would not take me, without the governor sent me on board in irons with a guard of soldiers, and then he would carry me in irons to Dominico and there deliver me to justice. His excellency told him he might do as he pleased when he came to an English port, but he thought it was an act of charity to carry me, and not only so, but his duty, I being his countryman, however he said he would not at this time. I took the fever and ague, and grew very weak, could scarcely walk or eat any thing, I went every day to the governor's who told me not to be afraid, capt. S***h should give me a passage, for he could not sail without his liberty, but as for Andrew he could not oblige the capt. to give him a passage, Andrew not being an English man. When captain S***h came to take his goods out of the custom-house, his excellency told him, he must either give me a passage, or leave ten ounces of gold for my maintenance, rather than do which he consented to give me a passage. I went on board,

board, and left Andrew ashore very sick poor fellow, destitute of money, cloaths and friends. We sailed from Princes the latter end of November, and arrived at Dominico the beginning of January. Captain S***h was very kind to me and gave me some cloaths, his Doctor took good care of me whilst sick, when we arrived at Dominica, I was in middling good health, though my legs were swelled, and I was broke out all over with boils and blotches, of which I got not cured till I came to London. I shipped at Dominico on board the Ship John, captain Hogard, for Liverpool, the captain and crew were very kind, always allotting the easiest jobs for me, always considering my Weakness.

We arrived at Liverpool the 6th of April 1772. The captain was kind in paying me my Wages as soon as the ship was out, that I might not be detained I paid to the stage one pound five shillings out side passage, I had but three shillings left. We set out from Liverpool Friday at noon, the Weather was very cold, and we had much snow, on Saturday night we came to Coventry; I had but eleven-pence halfpenny, sixpence of which was to go for my bed. They asked what I chose for supper, I answered I could not eat, but would be glad they would show me to bed.

Sunday morning I rose, they were making ready breakfast, I called for a twopenny glass of brandy which I paid, then walked out, having nine-pence halfpenny in my pocket, sixpence of which was to pay the last night's bed. They missed me at breakfast, I had been telling the coachman who had been kind to me on the road, some of my misfortunes, and I suppose he told them I was bare of money. I walked about till church time, then went to church, thinking there to put off time till half past twelve, but I was mistaken, for they only read prayers, and so came out at half past eleven. It snowed very fast, so I went

to the inn and sat by the fire till two o'clock. The master of the inn had gone abroad this morning, and was not to return till night. When dinner was served up I was going out, the steward stopt me, and asked if I could not dine, I said no. Come, come, said he, I know what it is to want, sit down and I'll pay for your dinner, I sat down, he gave me a pint of strong beer, and I made a hearty dinner.

In the afternoon he made me drink tea, and when the master of the house came home, he told him my situation, he ordered to set the buttock of beef to the poor sailor, and give him a pint of strong beer before he went into the coach, the sixpence for my bed he would not take, I gave it to the maid servants, they returned it again, giving me as many thanks as if they had kept it, saying it would get me something on the road. It would be a pity to separate the people of that house, for from the highest to the lowest seem to be endowed with good accomplishments, may God reward them for their kindness is my sincere wish.

Monday evening I arrived in London, where I found the ship Warwick Castle was safe arrived, and that captain Hamilton had deserted the sloop six days after I went on shore, and gone on board a Liverpool ship. He sent a protest from St. Vincent, mentioning that we had squally weather, and that we fetched into a bay to the north of Fernandopoo, where we came to an anchor to refit and take in wood and water, after they had refitted, and supplied themselves with wood and water, on the eighth day of the same month, David Williamson mate, Perer Chancery, and Andrew Anderson, mariners on board the said sloop, went ashore to see to procure some fresh stock, but upon their going into the country the inhabitants as their deponents apprehend rose upon them, as they plainly heard the cries of one of them, but could render

der them no assistance, having no boat, they immediately made loose and stood out of the bay, and towards evening hove about and stood in shore, but saw nothing of them, therefore was naturally led to believe they were murdered by the savages.

I give glory to God, I am not as I was suspected, and if captain Hamilton had stood in again that evening, or staid at anchor 2 hours longer than he did, I should have been safe on board, and perhaps all that Went ashore. I am,

READERS,

Your humble Servant,

DAVID WILLIAMSON.